



GRETCHEN WHITMER

23RD DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 30036

LANSING, MI 48909-7536

PHONE: (517) 373-1734

FAX: (517) 373-5397

sengwhitmer@senate.michigan.gov

**THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

COMMITTEES:

JUDICIARY, MINORITY VICE-CHAIR

EDUCATION, MINORITY VICE-CHAIR

FINANCE

AGRICULTURE

November 24, 2009

YWCA of Greater Flint Safehouse
310 East Third Street
Flint, MI 48502

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept the enclosed check as a contribution to the YWCA of Greater Flint Safehouse. I have strongly opposed efforts to take police officers and public safety personnel off our streets as a means of solving Michigan's budget crisis. Unfortunately, despite my opposition, the Legislature approved budget cuts that continue to make our neighborhoods less safe places to live and raise a family. My colleague, Deb Cherry, made me aware of the vital role your organization plays in helping children and victims of violence feel safe and protected, so I want to offer a modest contribution to your efforts.

As a Michigan legislator, I am constitutionally provided with a monthly expense allotment for expenses related to in-district work. My contribution today is the full amount of that allotment for November. I am working to enact reforms that would require additional reductions in pay and benefits for lawmakers because I do not believe we should be held harmless while our communities and families make difficult sacrifices.

I cannot, in good conscience, accept this allotment while Lansing politicians balance our states budget by risking public safety. While this contribution is certainly not enough to solve our long-term budget mess, I hope that it will help you continue your important work of providing a safe haven for victims of abuse.

Hopefully, together we can fight to adequately fund public safety and fix what is broken in Lansing. Thank you again for all of your work on behalf of Michigan families.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Whitmer